

Don't sponsor or support HR4026.

I have been an XM Radio subscriber for over 2 years. XM Radio's recent addition of weather and traffic is something that I have long awaited.

I formerly listened to local stations for this same service, especially for traffic updates, before XM began broadcasting their more frequent form of the service. My commute in the Washington DC area usually runs between 60 and 90 minutes each way, twice a day. Conditions can change radically within only a few minutes.

Even with the most frequent local station updates, I must wait a minimum of 10 minutes and that usually only results in an update of a portion of the commuting area. More often, changes are 20-30 minutes apart. During a bad commute day, that causes me to be stuck in traffic before I know that a problem existed. The update time interval is not often enough to be meaningful.

XM Radio updates are constant and allow me time to bail out of a potentially bad situation. This scenario has occurred more than once in only the past few months.

Let's be forward thinking. Satellite radio and local radio each have their strengths and weaknesses. I still listen to local radio for less time-urgent local news summaries. Traffic in the Washington metropolitan area may not be as light and orderly as that in more rural states, so I hope the sponsoring legislators aren't using an unrealistic yardstick for measurement.

Introducing legislation to restrict a necessary stream of information does not make for happy commuters nor voters. Preventing local commuters from getting stuck in a traffic jam can as a minimum result in reduced road rage.

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